

BUDGET COMMITTEE REQUEST:

Staff report back on the costs of opening waterfront public washrooms one (1) hour earlier in the winter months

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- That the information be received.

KEY FACTS:

- Council has requested staff investigate the costs of opening the waterfront public washrooms one hour earlier in the winter months.
- The winter schedule currently operates from December 1 – March 31 with hours being 7:00 am – 10:00 pm.
- The request to open washrooms at 6:00 am would require another dedicated seasonal crew and shift.
- The cost associated with opening all washrooms at 6:00 am would be \$55,000 or 0.01% on the overall tax bill.
- Winter washroom maintenance is a key service that is offered as part of the Winter Recreation Strategy.
- A decision on permanent funding for the Winter Recreation Strategy is currently under consideration by Budget Committee as part of the 2026 budget deliberations.

COMMENTS/OPTIONS:

The costs associated with opening washrooms at 6:00 am during the period December 1 – March 31 is \$55,000 or 0.01% on the overall tax bill. This would require additional seasonal staff and equipment support. Washrooms are open 7 days per week and close at 10:00 pm.

The winter washroom program and service level was established in conjunction with the funding for the Winter Recreation Strategy. The Winter Recreation Strategy is presently being considered by the 2026 Budget Committee. If Council does not approve tax levy funding or temporary funding from tax stabilization to run the program for a final season to April 2026, then the program will be eliminated in December 2025.